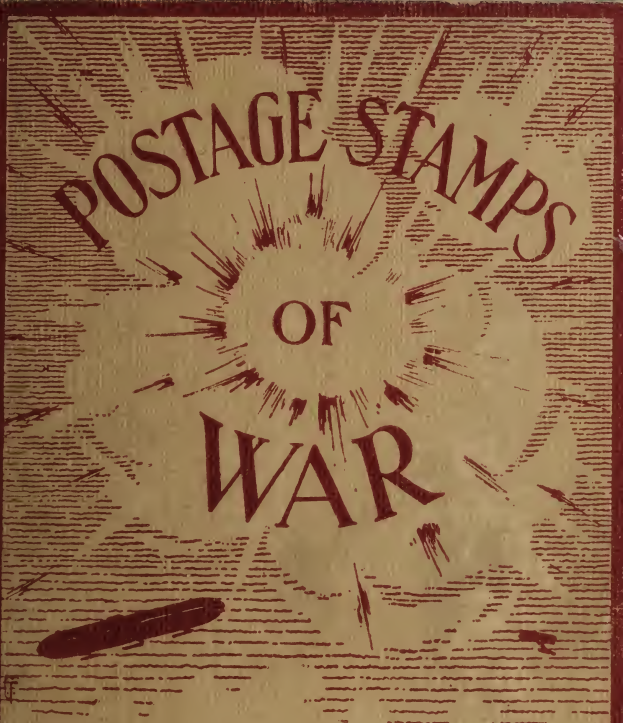


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OF
WAR

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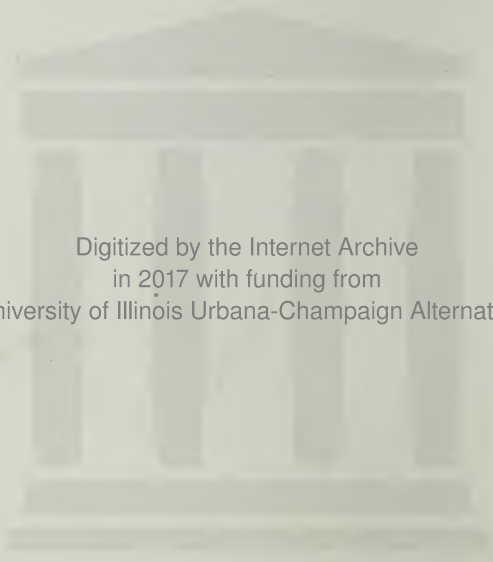
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tage Stamps of War
(1854-1914)

By Douglas B. Armstrong.



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PREFACE.

THE great success of No. 1 of the "Stamp Collecting Handbooks" (Notes on King's Heads) has influenced our publishers to produce the present volume upon a subject of such topical interest that it can hardly fail to appeal to all classes of Collectors.

Mr. Douglas B. Armstrong has made a special study of which this book is the result—War Stamps and the Mails in War.

Readers of *Stamp Collecting* will remember the series of articles entitled "The Postage Stamp in War" by the same author.

We hope at a later date, to add another volume to this series concerning the philatelic history of the present terrible conflict.

R. E. R. DALWICK,

London, Oct., 1914.

THE ALLIES.



THE ENEMY.



“Stamp Collecting Handbooks”

Vol. I.

“NOTES ON KING’S HEADS.”

SOME PRESS OPINIONS.

“Collectors of moderate British Colonial Stamps who are interested in the financial side of the hobby (and who is not ?) should not fail to obtain a copy of a fascinating and valuable booklet entitled “*Notes on King’s Heads.*” It is from the pen of Mr. W. H. A. WILLIAMS, a well-known expert in modern issues, and affords an invaluable guide to the actual market value of these popular issues. With its notes on twentieth century rarities and much inside information, it is a volume that no would-be successful collector of Edwardians and Georgians can possibly afford to dispense with.”—*Daily Express.*

“This is No. 1 of “Stamp Collecting Handbooks,” edited by R. E. R. Dalwigk, Editor of *Stamp Collecting.* The book is of the popular handbook order and is a model of typography. The title is descriptive of the contents and the text will prove very readable and interesting.”
Mekeel’s Weekly Stamp News.

“If these new handbooks, which are under the able editorship of Mr. R. E. R. Dalwigk, are kept up to the standard of No. 1, Stamp Collectors will be the better and wiser for their publication.”—

Stamp Collectors’ Fortnightly.

The header features a central rectangular box with a double-line border containing the title. To the left is a sketch of a coastal scene with a lighthouse and a ship. To the right is a sketch of a mountainous landscape with a river, a bridge, and a small boat. Below the title box is a decorative horizontal band with ornate scrollwork and a central circular emblem.

Postage Stamps of War.

WAR'S grim record inscribes itself in many strange and unexpected quarters, but nowhere more prominently than upon the postal issues of the nations concerned. It is, indeed, somewhat of a paradox that the humble postage stamp, the emblem of peace and commerce, and of the concord of nations, should be so closely associated with wars and rumours of wars, yet few modern campaigns have failed to have their trace upon the pages of the stamp album.

Already stamp collectors are opening up fresh pages in their albums for the reception of new issues arising out of the present great war in Europe, which even now have begun to make their appearance, and in after years will be fraught with a deep historical and romantic interest.

It may not be without interest, therefore, at this juncture, to review briefly some of the most notable examples of postage stamps whose issue has been occasioned by the wars and conflicts of the latter nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The collection and study of war stamps constitutes one of the most fascinating phases

control letter "A" in three lines in the centre. On the withdrawal of the allied forces from the Crimea on June 12, 1857, the use of these special postmarks ceased. It is worthy of note that this was the first occasion on which British postage stamps were employed outside the country of their origin. Stamps of the period bearing Crimea postmarks are of considerable scarcity, and are much sought after by collectors.

On the French side the stamps employed by the military post-offices on the campaign were those of the Imperial issue of 1853-60 with the head of Napoleon III., cancelled with rhomboid postmarks composed of a number of small dots, and enclosing various initials and abbreviations to indicate the different divisions, such as A.O.B.C. (Armée Orient Bureau, Central), A.O.—A. (Armée Orient Bureau, A. to P.), &c.

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

Very strikingly is the great struggle between the rival factions of North and South in the American Civil War of 1861 brought home to the stamp collector through the medium of two distinct series of postage stamps issued during these parlous times.

As a result of the secession of the Southern States, considerable quantities of the regular United States postage stamps of the series 1851-60, on hand at Southern post-offices, fell into the hands of the Confederates. In order to prevent these stamps being brought into use to the detriment

of the United States Revenue, it was deemed expedient to make an immediate change in the design of the Northern postage stamps, and, with the advent of the new series, to declare all previous issues invalid for postage. Accordingly, on August 15, 1861, an entire new issue of postage stamps was brought into use throughout the



Federal States, displacing that of ten years previous, which was declared to be demonetised.

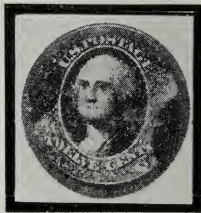
In the Confederate States the general issues of the Republic gave place, on October 18, 1861, to a special issue bearing the likeness of President Jefferson Davis, somewhat crudely printed by a firm of local lithographers in Richmond, Va. Meanwhile it had been decreed as far back as March 15 that, pending the preparation of particular postage stamps for the Confederacy, all postal charges should be prepaid in cash. The inconvenience of this method induced a number of postmasters to issue their own provisional postage stamps for local use. Unpretentious in design, and limited in number, several of these

Confederate Postmaster Stamps are of such extreme rarity as to be almost unknown.

Towards the end of 1861 a confidential agent of the Confederate Government was dispatched to England, provided with funds for securing the



necessary dies and plates for printing a new permanent issue of postage stamps, which were accordingly ordered from the famous London house of Thos. De La Rue & Co. Only the 5 cents. denomination of this series was actually



issued, however, for the vessel carrying the original plates, and a further consignment of 1 and 5

cents stamps, fell in with an United States cruiser off the port of Wilmington, N.C., when the plates were thrown overboard, but the stock of stamps was captured by the Federals. Further local issues followed down to the end of the war, when the regular postage stamps of the United States were again brought into use throughout the Union.

Amongst the philatelic souvenirs of the American Civil War must also be included the curious



postage stamp currency employed in the United States during a temporary shortage of small coins caused by the war.

THE FRENCH IN LOMBARDY.

The French victories over Austria on the plain of Lombardy, resulting in the annexation of

Savoy to the French Empire, and the successes of the Mexican campaign, were duly commemorated



by the addition of a laurel wreath to the portrait of the Emperor, as shown on the French postage stamps.

FRANCO-GERMAN WAR.

Louis Napoleon's triumph was destined, however, to be short-lived. War with Prussia broke out in July, 1870, and by the end of September the investment of Paris was complete. As a result the Imperial Government was overthrown and the Republic restored. So soon as it became evident that Paris would be besieged the Committee of Public Safety caused the stocks of postage stamps available in Paris to be distributed amongst the provincial post-offices, but these were speedily exhausted, and as no further supplies could be obtained from the beleaguered capital the Delegation at Tours decided to create a provisional 20 centimes stamp, representing the French inland postal rate at that period, for use in that part of France unaffected by the hostilities.

The branch Mint at Bordeaux, to which city the seat of Government was subsequently transferred, was entrusted with the preparation of this stamp, the design of which, showing the head of Ceres, emblematic of the Republic, was based on that of the first French stamps issued in 1849. This design was engraved on stone by a local artist, Mons. Leopold Yon, whose name, in tiny capitals, was cunningly introduced into the vine leaf in the hair. From this engraving lithographic transfers were taken to make up the stone for

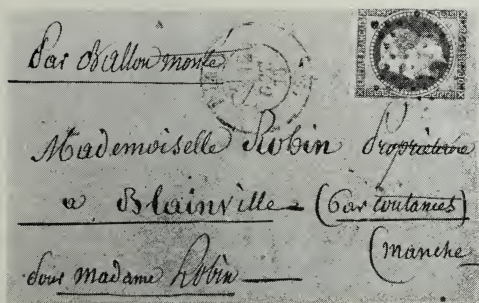


printing the stamps in complete sheets; the "Bordeaux" stamps being all produced by this process instead of by typography, as in the case of the normal French issues. The actual printing of the stamps was carried out under the supervision of M. Delebecque, Director of the Mint at Bordeaux, by the local firm of Angele-Delile. No perforating machines being available, the stamps had, perforce, to be issued without this convenience. Between November, 1870, when the Bordeaux provisionals first appeared, and March, 1871, when they ceased to be printed, a total

of 410,000 sheets of 300 stamps were struck off ; in addition to more than two and a-half million provisional postage due stamps. The dies and lithographic stones were all destroyed in the August following.

Meanwhile, in besieged Paris itself, the public had protested against the continued circulation of stamps bearing the effigy of the deposed Emperor. An instance is recorded of the Imperial portrait being actually cut out of the stamp before it was affixed to the letter, and there is no doubt that public feeling ran high on the subject. To meet the emergency, therefore, the discarded plates of the Republican issue of 1849-50 were unearthed and again pressed into service, and printed from throughout the siege. When the war was over this type was generally adopted for the French postage stamps, new plates being made from time to time for values necessitated by alterations in the postal tariff. The heavy war indemnity exacted by Germany made necessary the raising of the charge upon inland letters from 20 to 25 centimes, and that of town letters from 10 to 15 centimes, stamps of these values being issued in September, 1871.

Interesting philatelic mementos of the Siege of Paris exist in the form of letters sent out of the city by special means adopted to ensure their penetrating the Prussian lines, including balloons, pigeons, and clockwork devices resembling small submarines for travelling under the waters of the Seine. For the balloon post special cards



Balloon Post Letter used during the Siege of Paris, 1870.



The departure of Gambetta from Paris in the Balloon "Armand Barbés" on Oct. 7th, 1870, during the siege.

and letter-sheets were issued, whilst letters sent by this service bore the superscription "Par Ballon monté,"

On the Prussian side particular postage stamps for use in the occupied French provinces were issued from the postal administration of Nancy in September, 1870, for the use of the civil population, and were employed as far afield as Abbeville on the North, and Le Mans on the West. The severe type set design of these stamps, consisting merely of the word "Postes," and the value



inscription upon a network ground, was evidently prepared by the officials of the Imperial Printing Works in Berlin, more with a view to practical utility than with any eye for artistic effect. They remained in general use until March 24, 1871, when, following the conclusion of peace, they were withdrawn from circulation in all districts excepting the ceded territories of Alsace and Lorraine, where they were employed provisionally until superseded on January 1, 1872, by the first unified stamps of the German Empire. To philatelists this issue of the German occupation is familiarly known as "the stamps of Alsace and Lorraine."

CHILI AND PERU.

During the invasion of Peru by the Chilean forces in the war of 1879-84, the contemporary postage stamps of Chili were issued in a number of occupied Peruvian towns between the dates July, 1882, and October 22, 1883, and may be



found with the postmarks—inter alia—of Arica, Callao, Iquique, Lima, Paita, Pisagua, Pisco, Tacua, Yca, &c.

A number of the current Peruvian stamps were



also overprinted with the device of the Chilean

Aims, and so issued for public use in December, 1881, followed at the New Year by a further overprint of the inscription "Union Postal Universal," with the word "Peru" at the foot, in token of the provisional administration. Following the entry of Chilean troops into Lima on January 17, 1881, and the unification of the Republic of Peru, on December 2, 1885, a number of local provisional issues of postage stamps were made in various departments of the Republic, which, however, are too numerous to particularise.

ARABI PASHA'S REBELLION.

It was at the engagement of Kassasin in the Egyptian revolt that the then newly-organised Army Post Office Corps received its baptism of fire, a detachment in charge of a field post-office being attached to the expeditionary force under General Wolseley, which landed in Egypt in August, 1882. The contemporary 1d. and 2½d. stamps of Great Britain were issued by this military post-office, cancelled at first with a small "E" in red ink, and afterwards by a narrow lozenge shaped mark composed of small dots, which finally gave place to conventional circular date stamps, inscribed "British Army Post Office, Egypt," round the circumference. This mark was again employed in the operations in the neighbourhood of Suakim in 1884.

MAJUBA HILL.

The postage stamps in use in the Transvaal when the burghers, repudiating the British domin-

ion, proclaimed the second Republic at Heidelberg on December 16, 1880, bore the stately profile of Queen Victoria, but after the disaster at Majuba



Hill early in the following year the country was handed back to the Boers, subject to the suzerainty of Great Britain. This event was signalled by the surcharging of the Queen's Head stamps in local currency and ultimately by the re-issue of national postage stamps emblazoned with the arms of the



South African Republic. In this manner is the great historical event perpetuated in the memory of the stamp collector.

CHINO-JAPANESE WAR.

Japan honoured the memory of two Princes of her royal house who fell in the war with China



by placing their portraits upon the two commemorative stamps issued on August 1, 1896, to mark the conclusion of the peace of Shimonoseki.

GRÆCO-TURKISH WAR.

On the retirement of the Greek forces from the Northern part of Thessaly between April 12 and 24, 1897, the public Treasuries of Larissa, Trekala, Cardizza and Agina, containing large stocks of postage and revenue stamps fell into the hands of the enemy. In order to prevent the circulation of these stamps it was ordered that the stocks of stamps on hand at the other treasuries should be impressed with the official seal, a round handstamp having the Greek crown in the centre and the word TAMEION (Treasury), followed by the name of the province, round the circumference.

The Turkish occupation of Thessaly was followed

by the issue, early in the year 1898, of postage stamps of curious octagonal design, showing in the centre beneath the sign manual of the Sultan, a



vignette of the town of Larissa. They remained in circulation for a short period only, and were withdrawn so soon as the terms of peace had been agreed upon by the two governments.

MATABELE REBELLION.

Stamps of the British South Africa Company surcharged "One Penny" or "Three Pence" and issued at Bulawayo in April, 1896, recall the dark days of the Matabele rebellion. The capital, Salisbury, where the headquarters of the postal service were located was completely cut off from Bulawayo, and in consequence no fresh supplies of postage stamps could be obtained. Recourse was at first had to surcharging new values upon such stamps as were available, but eventually these

became completely exhausted and the Cape Government was requested by wire to lend a small supply of its own stamps to meet immediate requirements.



This was done, the stamps being overprinted "British South Africa Company" and used provisionally until the end of the war, when a new permanent issue was obtained from England.

THE SUDAN CAMPAIGN.

The first series of postage stamps for the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan comprising the contemporary



stamps of Egypt overprinted "Sudan" in French and Arabic, and issued at Wadi Halfa Camp on March 1, 1897, was almost exclusively employed in

franking correspondence of the British and Egyptian Armies under Lord Kitchener engaged in the reconquest of the Sudan, the establishment of the post offices coinciding with the advance of the troops.

The design of the present stamps depicting an armed camel postman crossing the desert with mails from Berber to Khartoum, is the work of



an army officer, Col. E. A. Stanton, O.L.I. A picturesque series of stamps for use on military telegrams in the Sudan was in use down to the year 1902, the design showing a detachment of the camel corps on the march.

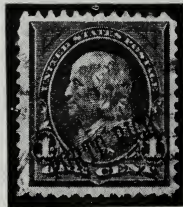
SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR.

There is no lack of philatelic souvenirs, on either side, of the great war between Spain and the United States over the liberation of Cuba. Military

post-offices supplied with the contemporary issue of the United States accompanied the American troops, specimens so used being distinguishable only by means of their cancellations

Consequent on the American occupation of Cuba a series of provisional stamps was issued from the town of Puerto Principe, overprinted with the word "Habilitado" and new value on the obsolete stamps of the Spanish régime. The substitution of civil for military government was followed by the appearance of contemporary United States postage stamps overprinted "Cuba" and new value in local currency, which continued in use until replaced by an issue of permanent design prepared in the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

In Porto Rico and the Philippines the same procedure was followed, ordinary stamps of the



United States overprinted being supplied for temporary use.

A Gilbertian episode of the war is recalled by the overprinting of the U.S. stamps for the Pacific Island of Guam. When the U.S. cruiser "Charles-

ton" steamed into the harbour of Agana and fired a shot from one of her big guns to demand the surrender of the island, the Spanish governor put off in a launch to apologise for his inability to return the "salute" as he had no ammunition for his batteries. He was unaware that the countries were at war and greatly surprised when he found himself a prisoner. Subsequently Guam was placed under the control of the Navy Department as a coaling station and for a time the stamps used there were overprinted with the name of the island.

The other islands of the Marianne group which remained under Spanish control after the annexa-



tion of the Philippines by the United States, overprinted their stocks of Philippine postage stamps with the inscription "Mariannas Espanolas" to render them valid for postage, the regular Spanish issues of the Philippines having been demonetized. At the conclusion of the war these islands, together with those of the Caroline group, were sold to Germany, and in due course

were provided with stamps of the usual German Colonial type.



Various provisional stamps were issued during the early stages of the war by the Spanish authorities in Cuba and Porto Rico, whilst at home a special War Tax stamp was brought into use, which was required to be affixed to all letters in addition to the ordinary postage fee.

The curious local stamps of the Philippine revolutionaries under Aguinaldo must also be counted amongst the philatelic souvenirs of the Spanish-American War.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902.

Perhaps the most familiar of all war stamps both to the stamp collector and the layman are those which owe their issue to the Great Boer War.

On the occupation of Bloemfontein in March, 1900, instructions were given for the whole of the available supply of postage stamps of the late Orange Free State to be overprinted with the initials "V.R.I." for use under the military

administration, and the same was done as regards the contemporary stamps of the Transvaal after



the fall of Pretoria three months later. The overprint was afterwards changed to "E.R.I." in consequence of the accession of King Edward VII.



For a time there was a veritable "boom" in V.R.I.'s, and a scramble to secure some of the rarer varieties. Every officer and soldier brought or sent home sets of these paper trophies, whilst the stamp collecting world was almost wholly given over to the study and collection of "raised" and "level" dots and specimens with "dots omitted."

Mortimer Menpes, in his "War Impressions," draws the following pen picture of the state of affairs produced by the issue of these V.R.I. stamps :

"During this campaign there was an extraordinary craze which had never before occurred in any war in the world, but may possibly play a very considerable part in the wars of the future ; and that is the craze for postage stamps. . . .

* * * * *

"I was now quite an authority on stamps, and a rabid collector, too. Nothing ever happened connected with stamps without my being on the spot. All my thoughts were of stamps, they were food and drink to me. . . .

* * * * *

"All the world lived at the post-office now. Generals jostled sergeants, and privates hustled doctors in the eagerness to buy up the twopence-halfpennies, but I noticed that in a rush for a missing dot the doctors invariably came out on top, while the clergy came in a very good second."

Special siege stamps were issued in a number of South African towns during their investment by the Boers at different periods in the war, amongst them being Lydenburg, Rustenburg, Schweizer Renecke, Volkrust and Wolmaranstad, but most famous of all issues of the South African war are the renowned siege stamps of Mafeking. At first these stamps took the form of contemporary stamps of the Cape of Good Hope and Bechuanaland Protectorate overprinted at the offices of

the "Mafeking Mail" with the words "Mafeking Beseiged," and a new value to meet the high rates of postage upon letters sent by Kaffir runners through the enemy's lines. There was also a local issue for use upon messages conveyed between different points within the defences which was produced by a photographic process. One of these stamps bore a representation of a cyclist orderly, whilst on the other appeared the portrait of the gallant commander of the garrison,



Major General R. S. S. Baden Powell. The finest collection of these historic postage stamps extant is owned by H.M. the King, whose enthusiasm for the hobby of philately is well known.

When the Boer forces seized Vryburg in November, 1899, they surcharged the Cape stamps found in the post-office with their values and the letters Z.A.R. (Zuid Afrikanish Republic), afterwards replacing them by the current issue of the Transvaal. In May, 1900, the town was re-occupied by the British, who retaliated by surcharging the Boer stamps "V.R. Special Post."

The last phase of the war is represented by the crude type set provisionals issued at Petersburg, in the Northern Transvaal, whence the seat of Government of the South African Republic had



been removed during March and April, 1901. They were roughly printed in the press of "De Zoutspanberg Wachter," and on the arrival of the British troops in the district the remainders were destroyed.

RELIEF OF THE PEKIN LEGATIONS.

The field post-offices attached to the Indian contingent forming part of the allied army dispatched to the relief of the Pekin Legations during the Chinese Boxer Rising of 1900 were, as usual, supplied with the contemporary postage stamps of British India. For convenience of reckoning it was decided to fix the rate of exchange

at 4 cents to the anna, and as this allowed a slight margin it was deemed expedient to place some distinguishing mark upon the stamps sold in China at this rate, to obviate the possibility of their being exported to India in large quantities at a profit. They were therefore overprinted with the initials C.E.F. (China Expeditionary Force), and so distinguished are employed to this day by the British and Indian troops of the North China command. Chinese stamps surcharged "British Railway Association" are likewise reminiscent of the dark days of the siege of the Legations.

The military post-offices of the other allies, French, German, Russian, Japanese, American, Italian, etc., all made use of the regular home issues of their respective countries without distinguishing overprint, and these also must be counted amongst the philatelic records of the Boxer Rising.

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR, 1904-5.

For the benefit of the widows and orphans of soldiers who fell in the war with Japan, the Russian Government issued early in 1905, a set of charity postage stamps adorned with reproductions of monuments to national heroes. They were sold for 3 kopecs in excess of their actual postal values, which sum was appropriated to the war fund.

In commemoration of the great Triumphal Military Review at the conclusion of the war, two



particular postage stamps showing trophies of arms



were placed on sale by the Imperial Japanese Post Office, for one day only, on April 30, 1906.

ITALO-TURKISH WAR.

The war between Italy and Turkey which ended in the annexation of Tripoli is recalled by the overprinting of the present Italian postage stamps

with the name "Lybia" which has been bestowed on her new protectorate, and with the names of



a number of Aegean Islands during their temporary occupation by Italian troops.

BALKAN WAR.

The special issues of postage stamps arising out of the war between the States of the Balkan League



and Turkey are by far the most numerous of any stamps of war, and space forbids more than a passing reference to them. They include Greek

stamps overprinted "Hellenic Administration" for the occupied districts of Thrace, Macedonia, and Thessaly, and in Crete; in addition to local issues for the islands of Lemnos, Samos and Mytilene, and independent issues emanating from Albania, Epirus and Thrace.

Bulgarian and Greek stamps also exist overprinted Dedeaghtch, Cavalle and Gioumultzina, when those



towns were wrested from the Bulgarians in the second phase of the war.

In addition we have a permanent Greek war series in two designs, inscribed "Expedition of 1912," the first showing Jupiter in the guise of an eagle with a serpent in its beak soaring above Mount Olympus, as an omen of victory taken from a bas relief on the West front of the Parthenon, the work of the sculptor Phidias, and the second depicting the famous vision of the fiery Cross, which, according to popular legend appeared to

the Emperor Constantine the Great in the year



313, with the motto "In hoc signo vinces."

Turkey celebrated the re-capture of Adrianople by the creation of a handsome postage stamp vignette of the world-famous Mosque of Selim



in that city, whilst the union of Crete with Greece is commemorated in the design of a special 25 lepta stamp, which depicts the hoisting of the Hellenic flag over the bastion at Suda Bay.



* * * * *

Other notable wars and campaigns that are denoted by special stamps or postmarks include the Abyssinian Expedition of 1867, when Indian stamps were employed by the field post-offices, and cancelled with the letters "F.F." set in a rhomboid frame; the occupation of Schleswig-Holstein by Austria and Prussia, and subsequently by Prussia only, the stamps of the revolutionary movement being superseded at first by a conjoint issue, and later by separate issues for Schleswig (occupied by Prussia) and Holstein (occupied by Austria). After the Austro-Prussian war of 1866, however, the two Duchies were formerly annexed by Prussia, and used the contemporary stamps of that kingdom, until they were superseded in 1868 by those of the North German Confederation.

The Carlist insurrection in Northern Spain, in 1878, provided some interesting lithographed labels bearing the likeness of the Pretender, Dom

Carlos. The military operations against the Carlists also led to the introduction of war tax stamps by the Spanish Government on January 1, 1874. They bore a design of the Arms of Castille and Leon, and were required to be affixed to all letters, for a certain period, in addition to the ordinary postage.

The stamps issued by the Provisional Government in Spain, following the revolution of September, 1868, also come under the category of war stamps, as do also all stamps of Bosnia which appeared under the military administration.

During the war with Paraguay (1864-70) the Brazilian naval and military forces were furnished with some unpretentious labels, bearing a plain type-set inscription in a rectangular frame, reading "Exercito" (Army) or "Armada (Navy) —e operacoes contra o Paraguay," which franked their letters free to all parts of Brazil.

Stamps of Eastern Roumelia overprinted with the Bulgarian Lion in 1885, mark the revolt of that State, and its union with Bulgaria as South Bulgaria.

A curious set of labels printed in a large variety of colours, with the Spanish Arms in the centre, and inscribed "España-Correos—Vranquicia Postal —Expedicionario Ejercito—Melilla," appeared at the time of the Spanish expedition to Morocco in 1893, but are believed to have been issued merely by a private speculator and without any official status.

Whilst Crete was occupied by the Allies during

the insurrection of 1898, special stamps were issued both by the British and Russian authorities in their respective spheres of influence.

The Indian stamps overprinted "British Somaliland" in 1900, although appearing at the time of the military operations against the Mad Mullah, were not supplied to the Indian field post-offices, which made use of the ordinary home issue without overprint. Those additionally overprinted "On H.M.S." for official purposes, however, were chiefly employed by the military authorities at that time.

Prior to the introduction of adhesive postage stamps there are many postmark souvenirs of war that are of surpassing interest, amongst them relics of the Napoleonic Wars, the campaigns of Frederick the Great, the French Revolution, etc., etc., but these, together with purely postmark varieties evolved during more recent campaigns, do not come within the scope of this work, which is primarily concerned with special issues of adhesives influenced by war.



PART II.—STAMPS OF THE GREAT WAR.

AT the time of writing the war of the nations is scarcely three months old, yet it has already produced no inconsiderable number of postal and philatelic mementos, which are being added to almost daily.

Postmark varieties so far constitute the larger proportion, but there have also been some highly interesting issues of adhesive stamps by the nations involved, and "the cry is still they come."

A collection of war stamps and postmarks forms one of the most fascinating permanent and instructive records of the present great European crisis. Even for those who are not themselves collectors it will possess in after years a deep historical interest. By securing all varieties as they appear such a collection can be formed at comparatively small cost.

Red Cross Stamps.

A remarkable philatelic feature of the Great War has been the number of Red Cross charity postage stamps that have been issued by the combatants on both sides: a class of stamp that has hitherto played an inconspicuous part in the pageant of the stamp album.

Stamps of this character, sold for varying amounts in excess of their actual postal denominations in aid of the national Red Cross Funds have been issued recently in France, Monaco, Morocco, Belgium and Russia, while others are said to be

in preparation. In Germany, it is reported that the entire stock of German Colonial stamps on hand for sale to collectors and dealers at the special stamp collectors' bureau in Berlin have been imprinted on the face with a large Geneva Cross, to the same end, but as yet this rumour lacks confirmation.

It is to be hoped that every stamp collector will see to it that one full set at least of all Red Cross stamps issued by the Allies finds place in his album, thus contributing his mite toward the noble work of that magnificent organisation, the Red Cross.

Other War Stamps.

Not all of the postal issues of the Great War have been, however, of a charitable nature, as witness the German stamps overprinted for use in Belgium under the Imperial Governor-Generalship; stamps of Togo in the familiar German Colonial type overprinted "Anglo-French Occupation"; Indian stamps overprinted I.E.F. for the use of the military post offices of the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, etc.

The naval and military postmarks and censor marks of the different armies are also worthy of attention, and make an important contribution to the philatelic record of the war.

The following notes upon the stamps and postmarks of the Great War that have come under the notice of the writer up to the time of going to Press, bring the story of the postage

stamp in War right down to the present time. They are of necessity somewhat brief and incomplete owing to the impossibility of obtaining definite information concerning some of the issues whilst hostilities are in progress, but an effort has been made to include all important varieties together with such details as are at present available. When Peace shall once more have come into her own further particulars regarding many of these war stamps will doubtless be forthcoming, and doubtful points cleared up. It is hoped to embody these in a subsequent volume, which will also contain a record of the issues appearing after the publication of this work, in the form of a sequel, the two books constituting a complete popular history of the Postage Stamps of War.

Great Britain.

The embodying of the Territorial forces following the outbreak of war with Germany on August 4, 1914, resulted in many cases in a local shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. stamps, and amongst the earliest philatelic souvenirs of the Great War must be counted letters and postcards from Territorials marked "No stamps available" to which ordinary Postage Due labels have been affixed by the postal authorities. An early example was inscribed "No obligation," but instances are known where the full amount of postage due was collected by the postal authorities, although instructions were subsequently issued by the Postmaster-General that no charge should be made upon such communications.

With the dispatch of the British Expeditionary Force to France and Belgium in the early days of August, the Army Post Office Corps, forming a special service section of the 8th County of London Territorial Battalion (Post Office Rifles) was mobilised and placed in charge of the postal arrangements of the Expedition, under the direction of Colonel W. Price, C.M.G., Director of Army Posts.

Created by Royal Warrant at the time of the Egyptian campaign of 1882, the Army Post Office Corps first saw service under Lord Wolseley, and later a detachment took part in the operations round Suakim in 1884-85. In the South African War 1899-1902, the establishment of the Army Post Office Corps in the field reached a total of 648 of all ranks, several of whom were killed in action, while about 50 died of disease. A number of base offices and some fifty field post offices were maintained in operation during the war, and high tribute was paid to the efficiency of the service by Lord Roberts in dispatches. An indication of the amount of work that fell to the lot of the Army Post Office Corps in the South African War may be gleaned from the fact that in a single week 313,416 letters, etc., and 19,019 parcels were received from England and sorted and distributed to the troops, and 108,150 letters and registered packets were forwarded in the home mails.

Until the outbreak of the great European War, the Army Post Office Corps had not since seen active service.

The following is a copy of an Army Order relating to the organisation of the Army Postal Service in the present war:—

THIRD ARMY ORDERS.

By Lieut.-General Sir W. E. Franklyn, K.C.B.,
Commanding Third Army (Central Force).

Headquarters, Luton Hoo,
28th September, 1914.

PART II.

87. ARMY POSTAL SERVICE.

An Army Postal Service R.E. (Territorials) is in course of formation, and when complete will be attached to the Central Force, as follows:

WAR ESTABLISHMENTS.

At each Army Headquarters.

- 1 Assistant Director of Postal Services
(A Subaltern).
- 1 Staff Sergeant.

BRANCH FIELD POST OFFICES.

At each Army Headquarters.

- 1 Sergeant.
- 2 Sappers and Pioneers.

At each Divisional Headquarters.

- 1 Sergeant.
- 3 Corporals.
- 5 Sappers and Pioneers.

At each Mounted Brigade Headquarters.

- 1 Sergeant.
- 1 Corporal.
- 1 Sapper or Pioneer.

At each Infantry Brigade Headquarters.

- 1 Corporal.
- 2 Sappers and Pioneers.
- As regards payment, etc. . . .

Further instructions will be issued as to the

date upon which these details will join for duty :

R. D. GUBBINS,
Brigadier-General, D.A. & Q.M.G.,
3rd Army.

About fifty field post offices, as well as a number of Base and Advance Base offices, appear to be operating with the British Army on the Continent.

The earliest type of cancellation applied to the correspondence of the Expeditionary Force consisted merely of a circular cancelling stamp formed of a number of heavy bars, and reminiscent of the early English duplex postmarks. This mark, bearing no indication as to the date and place of posting, was in use during a brief period only and has now been superseded by the regulation type of date stamp with two concentric circles inscribed round the circumference ARMY BASE POST OFFICE, ADVANCE BASE POST OFFICE or ARMY POST OFFICE, 1-50. A second type of postmark with a single outer circle is also known. Regulation Field Service postcards with an impressed 1d. stamp and printed on the back with a carefully tabulated list of stereotyped messages such as "I am well," "I am wounded," "I am in hospital," etc., are supplied to British troops on active service, the method of use being merely to cross out such sentences as do not apply to the particular case.

In addition letters and postcards are impressed with the Censor's mark in red (as illustrated), the highest number so far recorded being No. 394.

Unlike the Army, the Royal Navy has no

regular postal corps of its own, but correspondence for the Fleet is handled by a special branch of the



ARMY.



CENSOR.



NAVY.

great Central Sorting Office of the General Post Office at Mount Pleasant. This department is in daily communication with the Admiralty as to the whereabouts of the various vessels, and letters addressed to the care of the G.P.O. are forwarded with the least possible delay. Navy letters in times of peace are usually cancelled with the ordinary postmark of the town at which they are put ashore. But the necessary conditions of secrecy obtaining in war time have evolved a large number of curious postmark varieties, a few of which are the subject of the accompanying illustration.





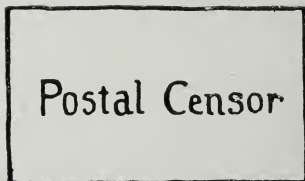
The formation of concentration camps for the internment of alien enemies in Great Britain,



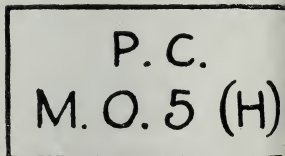
1.



2.



3.



4.

as prisoners of war, is responsible for the creation of yet another group of war postmarks, which we illustrate. Numbers 1, 3 and 4 are Censor's marks, and No. 2 the "frank," all being impressed in violet ink.

Austria.

Two particular charity-postage stamps in aid of a Fund for the relief of widows and orphans of soldiers killed in the war were issued by the Austrian Government on October 4, in accordance with the terms of the following Ministerial decree of September 24, 1914 :—

" ISSUE OF NEW STAMPS OF FIVE AND
TEN HELLERS.

(For the assistance of Widows and Orphans of
Fallen Warriors).

" During the continuation of the war, new stamps of the 5 and 10 hellers denominations will be issued, which will be sold at 2h. above face value, that is, the stamps are sold at 7 and 12 heller respectively. By purchasing the complete sheet of 80 copies, the price is 5kr. 40h. and 9k. 35h. The proceeds gained in this way will be devoted to the aid of the widows and orphans of fallen warriors.

" The stamps are eight millimetres longer than the current 5 and 10 h. stamps, and they bear the design of these and besides, in the space between the portrait of His Majesty and the figures of value, is placed "1914" in white figures on coloured ground, surrounded by foliage ornament.

" The new stamps will be issued on and after October 4th, 1914.

" Until further notice these stamps may be used, besides those of the current issue, for

franking postal matters of the Interior service and exchange service with Hungary, Bosnia, Herzegovina and Germany.

“Exchange or return of these stamps are not entertained.

“ (Signed) SCHUSTER, M.P.”



From the description given it would appear that these stamps resemble closely the elongated birthday commemoration issue of November, 1910.

CHECK LIST.

October 4, 1914. Charity postage issue. Two values. Head of Emperor Francis Joseph I. Types of 1906 adapted. Dated "1914." Surface printed at Imperial Printing Works, Vienna. No watermark. Perf., 12½.

5 (7) heller green.

10 (12) ,, rose.

Hungary.

A similar issue has been made in Hungary, where the remainders of the 5 and 10 filler Flood Relief stamps have been overprinted in black,

“ Hadi segély ” (War Relief) across the centre, and on the label at foot, obliterating the original inscription, “ Ozvegyeknek és arvaknak két (2) filler ” (for the widows and orphans, 2 fillers).



CHECK LIST.

October, 1914. *War Relief Stamps. Overprinted as above on Charity issue of November, 1913, in black. Surface printed and overprinted at Hungarian National Printing Works, Budapest. Wmk Multiple Cross. Perf. 15.*

5 (7) filler green.

10 (12) „, rose.

The military post-offices attached to the Austro-Hungarian Armies in the field will be making use of the contemporary postage stamps of Austria or Hungary, cancelled with special dies, inscribed “ K.U.K. FELDPOST,” or with some similar inscription, but at the moment of writing no specimens are available for reference.

Belgium.

The German invasion of Belgium was followed by the establishment of Field post-offices in all Belgian towns along the line of advance, and accordingly many of the current German postage

stamps may be found with Belgian postmarks. Towards the end of September the civil postal service in all the occupied districts was taken over by the German postal administration, with headquarters in Brussels, and on or about October 1 a series of four special stamps for use under the Imperial Governor-Generalship of Belgium was provided, by overprinting corresponding low values of the German type of 1902, inscribed "Deutsches Reich," with the word "Belgien" and value in "centimes." The overprint in two lines of black Gothic type was applied at the Imperial Printing Works, Berlin, resembling that on the "Cents" series for the German P.O. in China of 1905.



CHECK LIST.

October 1, 1914. Provisional issue of German occupation. Overprinted "Belgien" and values in Centimes, in two lines of black Gothic type upon contemporary German issue of 1902. Surface printed and overprinted at Imperial Printing Works, Berlin. Watermark. Lozenges. Perf., 14.

3	centimes	on 3	pfg.	brown.
5	"	on 5	"	green.
10	"	on 10	"	red.
25	"	on 20	"	blue.

The above issue is stated to be merely of a provisional character, it being proposed to substitute for it in due course, permanent stamps on the lines of those issued for Alsace and Lorraine, etc., in the Franco-German War of 1870-1871.

Of doubtful authenticity are Belgian stamps of



the 1912 series overprinted diagonally "Deutsches Reich," specimens of which are being offered in certain quarters. Following the destruction of the Belgian National Printing Works, during the bombardment of Malines two series of Red Cross Postage stamps for internal use only were manufactured at Antwerp by lithography, the one in design showing the national memorial to the war of Independence of 1830—three Belgian soldiers, one of whom is wounded,

defending the flag; and the other a modern portrait of Belgium's gallant young King, Albert I. They were issued on October 3, and were sold for double face value at post-offices in that part of Belgium not as yet occupied by the German armies.

CHECK LIST.

October 3, 1914. Red Cross Postage stamps. Lithographed on white wove unwatermarked paper at Antwerp. Perf., 13½. Geneva Cross in Red on all values.

(a) *National Memorial.*

5 centimes green.

10 „ red.

20 „ purple.

(b) *Head of King Albert I.*

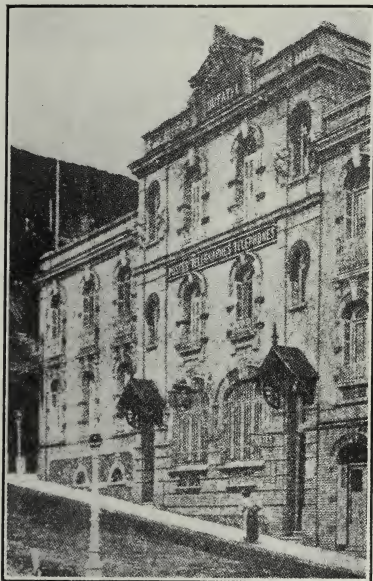
10 centimes brick red.

20 „ purple.



The printing of the regular Belgian postage stamps of 1912 with head of King Albert must have been suspended quite early in the war. At that time preparations were in progress for the production of a new permanent pictorial issue by the Dujardin process of dry printing from line-engraved plates, for which special machinery was on order in London, but the outbreak of war has,

for the time being at least, quashed this issue. Military postmarks and censor marks are believed to have been affixed to the contemporary postage



stamps of Belgium prior to the final withdrawal of the Belgian government from its native soil, but no particulars are available at the time of writing.

A Belgian post-office is operating in the little

town of St. Andresse, near Havre, where the Belgian Ministry is at present enjoying the hospitality of France. Ten centimes is said to be the charge upon local letters and 25 centimes to Havre, and ordinary Belgian stamps with portrait of King Albert are used and obliterated with a special postmark.

Canadian Contingent.

A few years ago an up-to-date postal corps was added to the Canadian Army, and a field post-office under its direction accompanied the Canadian troops who landed in Great Britain



in October, 1914. A special postmark of a large circular pattern surmounted by a crown and with a maple leaf in the centre is applied to correspondence passing through this office, as shown in the illustration.

France.

As early as August 18 a provisional Red Cross postage stamp was issued in France under the authority of M. Thomson, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, the current 10 centimes postage stamp in the Sower design being imprinted on the face with a small Geneva cross and the figure "5c." in vermilion near the foot of the stamp, and sold at post offices for 15 centimes, five of which were appropriated to the Red Cross Fund. This was later followed by a permanent stamp of the same character, but with the Geneva Cross and additional



value incorporated in the design, together with the inscription "Croix Rouge." Although their use is entirely optional many thousands have been sold in France during the past few months.

CHECK LIST.

August 18. Provisional Red Cross Postage stamp overprinted "† 5c." on contemporary French postage stamp at Government Printing Establishment, Paris. Perf., 13½ and 14.

10c. (15c.) carmine.

September. Permanent Red Cross Stamp. Surface printed

10c. (15c.) carmine.

The following is the text of the official decree authorizing the issue of Red Cross postage stamps in France :

“The President of the French Republic; on the advice of the Minister of Commerce, of Works, of Posts and of Telegraphs, Decrees.

Article I. A special postage stamp is created styled “Stamps of the French Red Cross.” The public shall have the privilege, in the interior region only, of using this stamp, which will be valid for postage up to the extent of 10 centimes only.

Article II. The stamp is sold for 15 centimes. The difference between the sale price and the postal value, after allowing for the regular rebate of 1%, will be diverted to the commission instituted by the decree of August 8th, 1914, by the Ministry of War, under the authority of the Military Department of Health and with the approval of the Societies forming the French Red Cross.

Article III. As a temporary measure, and pending the printing of the new stamp, the public will have at their disposal ordinary postage stamps of 10 centimes, bearing in surcharge the device of the Red Cross and the figure 5 centimes.

Article IV. The Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Finance are charged, each in their own part, with the execution of the present decree.

Given at Paris, the 11th August, 1914.
R. POINCARÉ.

For the President of the Republic, the Minister of Commerce of Works, of Posts and of Telegraphs.
GASTON THOMSON.

The Minister of Finance.
J. NOULENS.

Consequent on the removal of the seat of government from Paris to Bordeaux at the end of September, the French Government Printing Establishment was transferred to Marseilles, where a branch stamp printery has been created, which will be charged with the production of the current French postage stamps whilst hostilities continue.

Beyond a slight re-arrangement of the sheets, which will in future consist of two large panes only, it is announced that there will be no difference between the stamps printed in Marseilles and those formerly produced in Paris, but when the Marseilles printings do make their appearance philatelists will doubtless discover some slight divergency in shade or paper that will enable them to be differentiated. The field service post-card supplied to the French troops is a much more elaborate production than its British prototype, emblazoned with a cluster of the flags of the Allied nations in colours, after a design of Mons. Stern. It is cancelled with the French military postmark "Trésor et Postes" in a concentric circle, and bears no indication of value, being inscribed "Correspondance des Armées de la République—Carte en Franchise" whilst a table is provided for the name, rank and corps of the sender to be filled in. On the reverse side is printed that only general matters are to be referred to and no indication given as to the whereabouts of the sender, failing the observance of which rule the card will not be transmitted.

Germany.

Here a number of Censor marks and naval and military cancellations are in use, details of which are not at the moment obtainable. Mr. S. R. Turner informs me that he has the Censor's mark upon a letter dated as early as July 31, 1914.

Geprüft.

German Colonies.

It is reported from Berlin that the stock of German Colonial postage stamps in the existing "Hohenzollern" design, on hand at the special stamp collectors' post-office in that city, has



been overprinted with a large Geneva Cross and sold for the benefit of the Red Cross Fund, but at present the rumour is unconfirmed.

Indian Expeditionary Force.

Some 24 fully equipped military post-offices are included in the regular establishment of the Indian

Army, a number of which have been attached to every expeditionary force sent out of India in recent years.

A somewhat curious anomaly exists in connection with the use of postage stamps by these field post-offices, soldiers' letters being in reality conveyed free of charge in accordance with an announcement in the Indian Postal Guide, but with a view to facilitating their transmission postage is in the first place prepaid in the ordinary manner by means of adhesive stamps, the total value of those used by each unit being recovered at monthly intervals.

In the case of the Indian Expeditionary Force in France, it has been found expedient presumably



on account of currency differences, to overprint the contemporary Georgian postage stamps of British India supplied to the military post-office with the initials I.E.F. in large black Roman capitals.

CHECK LIST.

October, 1914. Contemporary Georgian issue of British India overprinted "I.E.F." in black

Roman capitals at the Government of India Central Printing Office, Calcutta. Watermark, Star. Perf., 14.

3 pies, grey.	3 annas orange.
$\frac{1}{2}$ anna, green.	4 „ olive.
1 anna, carmine.	8 „ mauve.
2 annas, purple.	12 „ carmine lake.
$2\frac{1}{2}$ annas, blue.	1 rupee, brown and green.

Luxemburg.

German postage stamps are stated to be in use here, the last issue with portrait of the Grand



Duchess Marie Adelaide being temporarily withheld from circulation.

Monaco.

Following the example of her French protector, this tiny Rivieran principality has overprinted its current 10 centimes postage stamp with the portrait of Prince Albert, with the Cross of Geneva, and additional value "5c." for sale in aid of the French Red Cross.

CHECK LIST.

October, 1914. Overprinted "+5c." on con-

temporary Monaco postage stamp of 1901-2. Head of Prince Albert. Surface printed on medium white wove unwatermarked paper. Perf., 14 and 13½.

10c. (15c.) red.

Montenegro.

The contemporary postage stamps of the Black Mountain Kingdom, bearing the likeness of King Nicholas I. are doubtless being employed by the



field post-offices attached to the Montenegrin forces operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina against the Austrians.

Morocco.

For a period of three weeks from September 1st, 1914, the current 10 centimes stamp of the French Post Offices in Morocco with value overprint in Arabic, was on sale in aid of the French

Red Cross, additionally overprinted "PROTECTORATE FRANCAISE" in two lines in black supplemented by the Red Cross and figure "5c." in red.

CHECK LIST.

September 1st, 1914. Provisional Red Cross stamp. Overprinted as above on French issue for P.O. in Morocco of 1911. Surface printed at French Government Printing Establishment, Paris. No watermark. Perf., 14 and 13½. 10c. (15c.) blue on carmine.

Newfoundland.

A particular postage stamp to be sold for 25 cents in aid of the National Relief Fund, but whose postal validity is limited to 2 cents, is reported, through an American source, to be about to make its appearance in this British colony.

New Guinea.

Following the seizure by an Australian expedition of the former German possession of Kaiser Wilhelmsland on the Australasian island of New Guinea, the stock of postage stamps in the regular German Colonial type on hand at the chief post-office at Rebaul is stated to have been converted to postal use under British Administration by overprinting with the cypher "G.R.I." No details as to the values, etc., so treated have been received up to the time of going to press with this volume.

Poland.

The following extract from an American newspaper refers to what is, presumably, a mythical

issue of stamps circulated for political purposes, and entirely devoid of any postal validity. The "New York American" prints a dispatch from Petrograd (St. Petersburg) in which it quotes a Galician soldier as saying :—

"When we left Vienna we were told the Austrians had taken Belgrade. At Cracow we were told all Servia was conquered and the army was approaching Nish and that the Germans had entered Warsaw. When we were led to positions we were informed that a Polish monarchy was already established, proof of which was shown by stamps with the effigy of King Sobieski the Third."



Russia.

Field post-offices accompanied the Russian advance into East Prussia in the early stages of the war and were supplied with stamps of the 1912 issue with portrait of the Czar. Specimens may, therefore, be found with the postmarks of towns in that region. It is assumed that Russian

stamps have likewise been employed in Galicia and other districts penetrated by the Czar's armies.

At Petrograd there has just been placed on sale a series of Red Cross postage stamps showing the flags of the Allied Nations with their staves encircled by a laurel wreath, against the background of the Rising Sun.

Samoa.

In a like manner to those of German New Guinea, the stock of former German colonial stamps found in the post-offices of the Samoan group has received the imprint of the Royal Cypher, and a new value in English money for use under the New Zealand administration. According to information to hand, the series comprises seven values, as follows:—

CHECK LIST.

October, 1914 (?) Overprinted "G.R.I." and new value in British currency on German Colonial issue of 1900 inscribed "Samoa." No watermark. Perf. 14.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 3 pfg. brown.
- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 5 pfg. green.
- 1d. on 10 pfg. carmine.
- $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. on 20 pfg. blue.
- 3d on 25 pfg. red and black on *yellow*.
- 4d. on 30 pfg. black and orange on *buff*.
- 5d. on 40 pfg. black and carmine.
- 6d. on 50 pfg. purple on *buff*.

Servia.

Servian stamps of the current issue have no doubt been in use by the field post-offices attached

to the troops operating in Bosnia and Hungary, but no particulars can, at present, be given regarding the precise form of postmark, etc.

Switzerland.

A correspondent in Switzerland sends me two field service postcards stamped with the national arms, which accordingly travel free through the post. The one for use by the soldiers themselves bears a notice in German, French, and Italian to the effect that the whereabouts of the troops must on no account be disclosed, while the other, to be used by friends and relations in communicating with the troops on mobilization, states that the correct address of the various units may be ascertained from the official military post bulletin.

Togo.

For several weeks following the occupation of the former German West African colony of Togo by a combined British and French force, the ordinary current stamps of the adjacent British colony of Gold Coast were employed in franking foreign letters, whilst for local postage the old German colonial stamps were temporarily allowed to do duty. A stamp of the German colonial type overprinted "G.R.I." by means of a rubber handstamp was, it is true, noted in a newspaper paragraph, but it is believed to have been unauthorised.

By the last West African mail in October, however, came to hand examples of the first

authentic postage stamp issue under the condominium, in the form of erstwhile German Colonial stamps inscribed "Togo," overprinted in three lines of heavy face black type "Togo, Anglo-French Occupation," and in some cases new values in British currency also. Only values up to 50pfg.



have actually been seen, but the higher denominations are understood to exist with this overprint.

CHECK LIST.

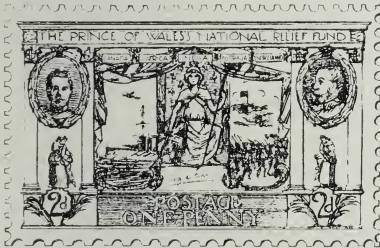
October (?), 1914. *Provisional issue. Overprinted locally as above on German Colonial issue of 1900-14. Surface printed at Imperial Printing Works, Berlin. (W) watermark lozenges. Perf., 14*
 ½d. on 3 pfg. brown. 40 pfg. black and carmine.
 1d. on 5pfg. green (W.). 50 pfg. purple on buff.
 10 pfg. carmine (W.). 80 pfg. black and carmine
 20 pfg. ultramarine (W). on rose.
 25 pfg. black and red 1 mark carmine (?).
 on yellow. 2 marks blue.
 30 pfg. black and orange 3 marks violet and black . .
 on buff. 5 marks carmine and black . .

* * * *

This completes the record of the postage stamps and postmarks of the Great War down to the

commencement of November, 1914, so far as the available data will permit.

It is safe to assume that the stamps referred to are but the forerunners of countless other issues



Suggested design for the British War Stamp, sketched by Messrs G. T. and S. R. Turner.

and varieties that will serve to perpetuate the memory of the War of the Nations in the minds of stamp collectors for all time.

—END.—

The author desires to acknowledge his indebtedness to Bright & Son and Mr. M. A. McGoff for the loan of specimens illustrated in the present work, and also to "Stamp Collecting."



War and the Stamp Market.

By W. H. A. WILLIAMS.

WAR leaves its mark on everything. There is hardly in existence anything so insignificant as to be impervious to the wondrous changes wrought by such a war as this in which we are still in the throes as I write.

Great as have been the effects in the financial world in this country, the shock has been withstood with a greater ease than the most sanguine would have prophesied six months ago—and stamp collecting as a hobby has, along with interests of superior magnitude, stood firm.

I have often known the Philistine say, "We will wait and see how your hobby stands the first few weeks of some great national calamity." Well, the first few weeks are now long since passed, and the hobby flourishes, perhaps, circumstances taken into account, as it never did before.

In spite of the dislocation of our usual methods of life all the stamp dealers of importance are still doing good business and enquiries in the trade produce hardly one discordant note. August and September were quiet, but August and September are always quiet, for the leisured classes have not returned to their homes and their stamp albums in these months.

Business naturally is slightly below the normal level; there are too many good philatelists serving with our forces to leave no effect on the dealers. There is probably no vocation which pursues philately so ardently as that of the Army, whilst there are many collectors of importance in the Navy. Hundreds more who formerly followed civilian life have volunteered for service and these good citizens are naturally quiescent so far as their philatelic activities are concerned.

There has, however, been no panic. No fine collections of Twentieth Century stamps have been slaughtered at half face. No accumulations of fine "Sydney Views" are to be found at one-third catalogue price. All these things and more were prophesied, but those who know give the same information—that there never was a time in the history of stamp collecting when less stamps were on the market.

This does not spell panic, nor does it spell any fall in prices. All that exists at the present time is a temporary lull and a natural and inevitable quietude, inseparable from occasions when one's attentions and pecuniary resources are centred on more vital interests.

We will examine in more detail the possible and probable effects.

Rarities.

Business in these gilt-edged securities during the war will be quiet. They will not depreciate in value, and none will be picked up at low rates,

except by accident—the latter contingency is not confined to War time :

There is no better investment than a rare stamp : this is true of all times. The individuals who handle them are not as a rule affected and frightened out of their senses at the first cloud which looms on the financial—or philatelic—horizon.

Medium British Colonial Stamps.

There will be a steady increase in demand for these stamps. For years they have occupied a truly “medium” position, but the boom in patriotic feeling will bring them more into their own.

Twentieth Century Colonials (always the most popular type of medium stamps) will occupy the same firm positions whilst the new issue business will boom. Collectors will see the chance of obtaining plenty of provisionals issued through exigencies occasioned by the war, and will accordingly make sure that their supply of new varieties is not allowed to lapse.

Good old imperforate British Colonial stamps are still almost unobtainable in fine condition at any discount of Catalogue rates, and this will hold good.

Foreign Stamps.

Old German States, on account of the present unpopularity of anything German, will show to more normal position. They have been overrated

for some years now, but the depletion of the Germanic exchequers and the consequent attrition of individual German's means will bring so many of these stamps on the market that the prospect is by no means bright for these stamps.

German Colonials will naturally enjoy a temporary boom, but we should not advise a too lavish expenditure on these stamps.

After the War.

Immediately following the successful termination of this war—and we anticipate no other result—the attentions of the stamp-collecting public, along with other classes of Society, will be so occupied in the new trade openings, etc., that it is at this time when the stamp business will possibly be very quiet.

Afterwards, however, the hobby will re-occupy the strongest possible position, and the recent rise in prices will be more than maintained.





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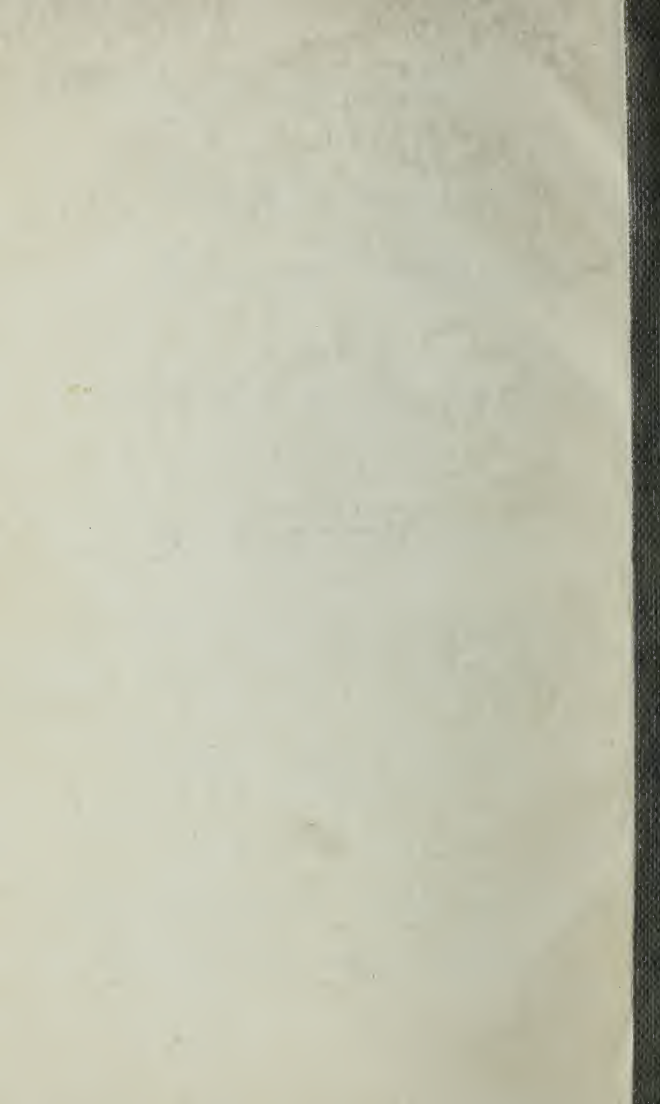
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